

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 10, 2007, has been carefully considered by Applicant.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 35-43 are hereby cancelled as being drawn to the non-elected Groups 2 and 3. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25, 27 and 32 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 26 is also indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present Amendment, claim 25 is rewritten in independent form and is thus in condition for allowance. Claims 24 and 26-34 now depend directly or indirectly from claim 25 and are thus also in condition for allowance.

Claim 44 is amended to include allowable subject matter, per the indication of allowance in the Office Action. Claim 44 is thus also believed in condition for allowance.

Claims 45 and 46 are added. Claim 45 is an apparatus claim combining the features of former claims 23, 30 and 32. As such, claim 45 is in condition for allowance in accordance with the indication of such in the Office Action. Claim 46 is a method claim which corresponds to the allowable subject matter of new claim 45. Claim 46 is also believed in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By the present Amendment, claim 26 is amended to provide proper basis for the limitations "t₁ and t₂".

Application No. 10/563,996
Amendment Dated February 11, 2008
Reply to Office Action of September 10, 2007

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

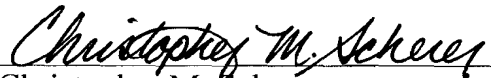
Claims 23, 24, 28-31, 33, 34 and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kairis EP Patent No. 0145176 in view of Masopust U.S. Patent No. 5,339,827. As indicated above, the claims are amended to incorporate allowable subject matter, per the indication on page 6 of the Office Action. As such, the claim rejections under §103 are believed rendered moot.

Conclusion

The present application is thus believed in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP


Christopher M. Scherer
Reg. No. 50,655

Andrus, Sceales, Starke & Sawall, LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Telephone: (414) 271-7590
Facsimile: (414) 271-5770